



White Paper: Solar Businesses, Jobs and Investment Opportunities For Virginia

The solar industry is the fastest growing industry in the U.S., creating jobs and investment – nearly 14,000 new U.S. jobs in 2012. Neighboring states have embraced this industry and are experiencing dramatic growth in jobs and investment. Yet Virginia is losing out on these opportunities because of policies that close the door on businesses and result in one of the worst industry environments for distributed renewable energy generation throughout the U.S. Virginia has the people and the opportunity, and by supporting the right policies, Virginia can jump on board this economic growth train.

Virginia is sitting at the bottom of the solar market as it lacks the policy support to infuse investment and increase job growth in the Commonwealth:¹

State	Solar Jobs per Capita Rank	Solar Jobs Through 2012	MW Installed Total	Solar Investment (2012) Millions
Delaware	12 th	360	44 MW	\$47
Maryland	16 th	1,900	110 MW	\$273
North Carolina	27 th	1,400	322 MW	\$307
Virginia	39 th	740 ²	15 MW	\$5

Virginia is not only losing solar jobs but it is also subsidizing other states' use of the Federal Investment Tax Credit for solar. Virginia residents received **0.1 cents of every dollar** paid out in solar federal tax credits, and received only 3.5 cents back of every dollar paid in federal taxes by VA residents for solar, the balance subsidizing solar in other states.^{3,4}

Strong and supportive policies are driving companies to our neighboring states, developing resilient economies that create businesses, jobs and investment – while Virginia falls behind:⁵

State	State Solar Policy Rank
Maryland	2 nd
Delaware	4 th
North Carolina	14 th
Virginia	33 rd



Nationwide, states are taking advantage of the \$11.5 billion dollar solar industry – the fastest growing industry in the U.S. – by supporting policies that recognize the value of solar in developing new employment opportunities:⁶

- **119,000** solar jobs nationwide
- **13,872** new solar jobs in 2012 – an increase of **13.2%** from 2011 (U.S. economic growth rate during same period – 2.3%)
- **1 out of every 230** new jobs in 2012 were created through the solar industry
- **30%** expected growth rate over 2012 installed solar capacity
- **6,100** solar businesses operating in over **7,800** locations across the U.S.

¹ "State Solar Policy." Solar Energy Industries Association. Viewed 1 Nov. 2013. <<http://www.seia.org/policy/state-solar-policy>>

² MDV-SEIA members have noted that as these employees may reside in Virginia, their companies are not doing work in Virginia

³ "1603 Program: Payments for Specified Energy Property in Lieu of Tax Credits" Department of the Treasury. Viewed 2 Dec. 2013. <<http://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/recovery/Pages/1603.aspx>>

⁴ "Federal Taxes Paid vs. Federal Spending Received by State, 1981-2005". Tax Foundation. Viewed. 2 Dec. 2013. <<http://taxfoundation.org/article/federal-taxes-paid-vs-federal-spending-received-state-1981-2005>>

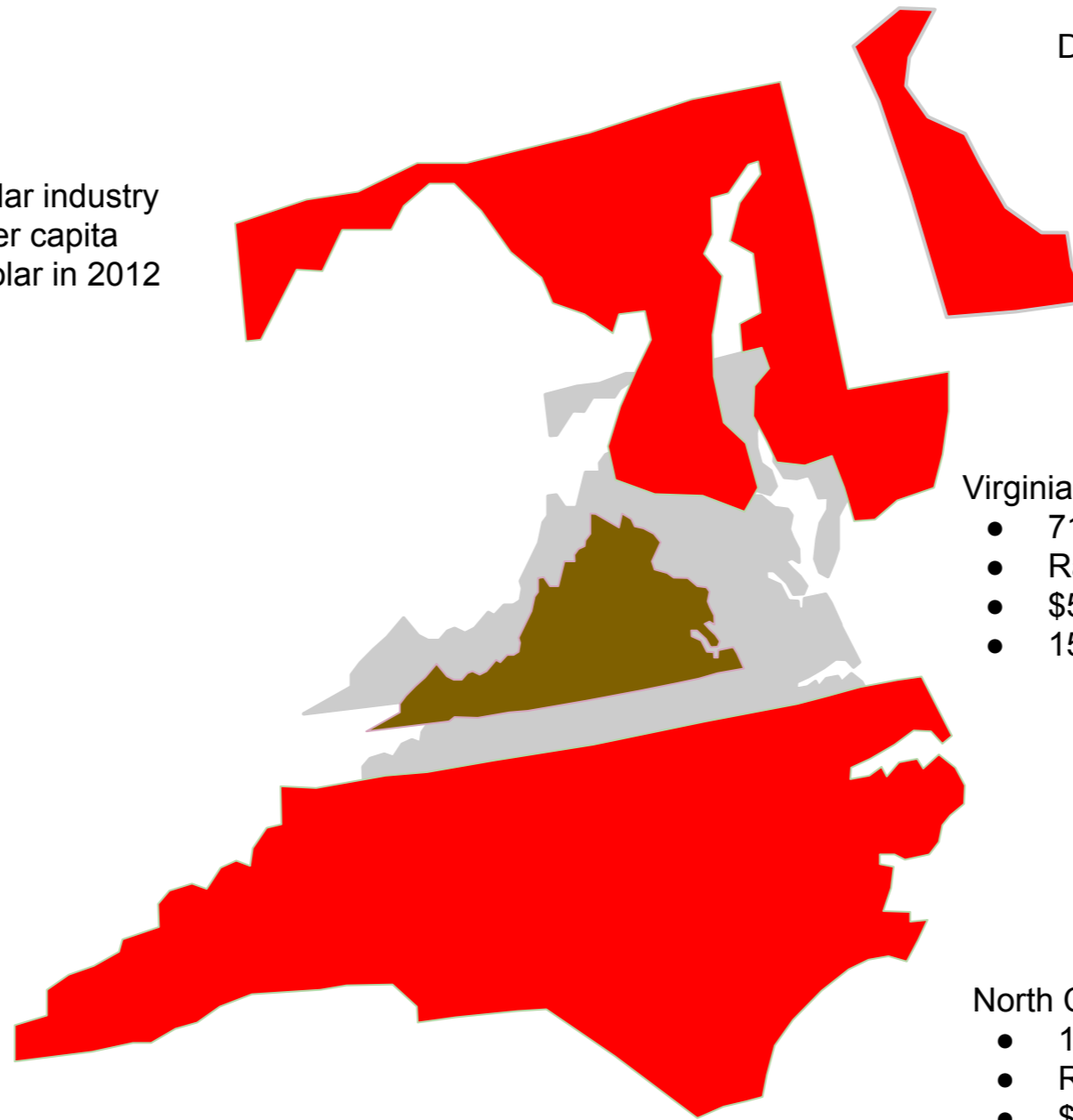
⁵ "2013 State Solar Power Rankings." Solar Power Rocks. June 30, 2012. Viewed 1 Nov. 2013. <<http://www.solarpowerrocks.com/2013-state-solar-power-rankings/>>

⁶ "A Review of the U.S. Solar Workforce." *National Solar Jobs Census 2012* (2013). The Solar Foundation: 1-68. Viewed 1 Nov. 2013

Map of Solar Businesses, Jobs and Investment in the Mid-Atlantic

Maryland

- 1,900 employed by the solar industry
- Ranked 16 in solar jobs per capita
- \$273 million invested in solar in 2012
- 110 MW installed total



Delaware

- 360 employed by the solar industry
- Ranked 12 in solar jobs per capita
- \$47 million invested in solar in 2012
- 44 MW installed total

Virginia

- 710 employed by the solar industry
- Ranked 39 in solar jobs per capita
- \$5 million invested in solar in 2012
- 15 MW installed total

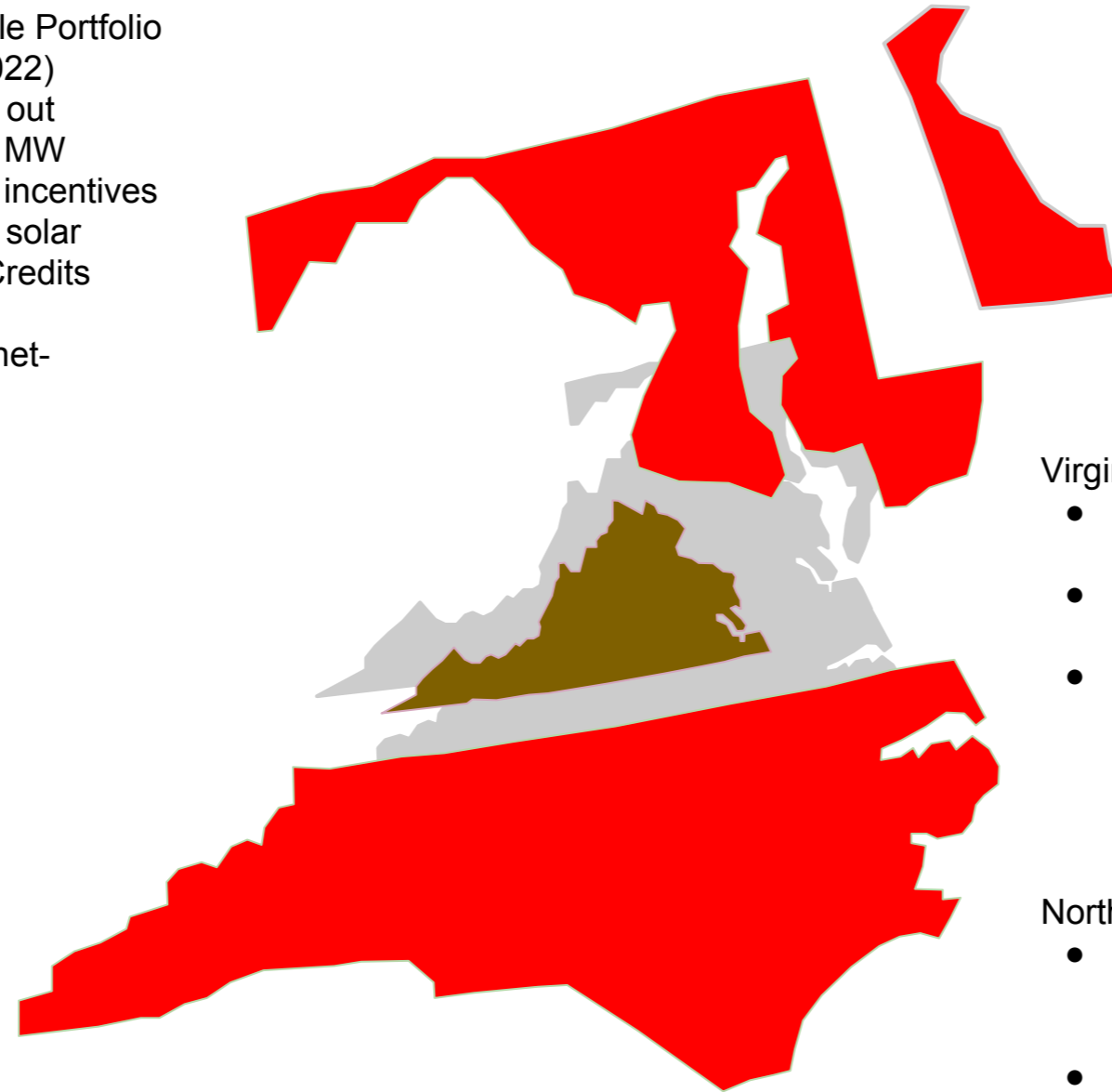
North Carolina

- 1,400 employed by the solar industry
- Ranked 27 in solar jobs per capita
- \$307 million invested in solar in 2012
- 322 MW installed total

Map of Mid-Atlantic State Solar Policies

Maryland

- Mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (20% by 2022)
 - 2% solar carve out
- Net-Metering up to 2 MW
- Property & Sales tax incentives
- State Tax Credits for solar
- Renewable Energy Credits Market
- Aggregate or virtual net-metering



Delaware

- Mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (25% by 2025-2026)
 - 3.5% solar carve out
- Net-Metering up to 2 MW in Delmarva Territory
- State Rebate Programs
- Renewable Energy Credits Market
- Aggregate or virtual net-metering

Virginia

- Voluntary Renewable Portfolio Goal
- Net-Metering up to 500 kW for commercial
- Property tax local option

North Carolina

- Mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard (12.5% by 2021)
 - 0.2% solar carve out
- Net-Metering up to 1 MW (or 200% annual consumption)
- Property tax incentives and credits
- State Tax Credits for solar
- Renewable Energy Credits Market